

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: September 3, 2019

MANUAL: Food and Nutrition Services Certification Manual

TO: County Directors of Social Services

CHANGE NO: 3-2019

SUBJECT: 2019-2020 Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Neutrality Analysis, Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) Mass Change, Utility Analysis and New Homeless Shelter Deduction

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2019

I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this change notice is to update the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefit amounts for October 2019 due to the COLA Mass Change and SNAP mass change. Changes were made to increase the maximum gross and net income limits, Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) and Basic Utility Allowance (BUA) amounts, standard deduction, and excess shelter deduction. The maximum allotment amounts for regular FNS cases also increase.

As a result of the required SNAP Neutrality Analysis, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that the SNAP Program allotment be decreased to \$105 if the rent, mortgage, and/or lot rent expense is \$200 per month or higher. Household allotments will decrease to \$65 per month if the rent, mortgage, and/or lot rent expense is less than \$200 per month.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 contains provisions that includes changes mandated by law, that households in which all members are homeless, are now allowed a standard or excess deduction for incurred or anticipated shelter expenses. The homeless shelter standard deduction is \$152.06 per month.

II. SPECIFIC CHANGES

A. Section 285, Determining Benefit Levels

1. SUA and BUA amounts updated in Section 285.01, A.
2. Standard Deduction amounts updated in Section 285.01, B.
3. Excess Shelter Deduction updated in Section 285.01, F.
4. New Homeless Shelter Allowance added in Section 285.01, G
5. Maximum Monthly Income updated in Section 285.02, A.
6. Maximum Allotment updated in Section 285.02, B.

7. Income Standards for separate Food and Nutrition Services units updated in Section 285.03.
8. Instructions for completing the DSS-1700 Application Worksheet regarding rounding down and rounding up final total added in Sections 285.04, D:3

B. Section 600, Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

1. Updated allotment amounts to include new amounts in Section 600.02, C:1 & 2
2. Updated to include, refer to household concept in Section 600.03, I

C. Forms updated to reflect new income, resource, allotment, and deduction amounts

1. DSS-1700/1700sp, Application Worksheet
2. DSS-8550/8550sp, Change Report Form
3. DSS-8552/8552sp, Food and Nutrition Services Makes North Carolina Stronger
3. DSS-8560/8560sp, Caseworker Desk Reference

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

These changes are effective with all applications, changes, and recertifications on October 1, 2019. A mass change will be performed by NC FAST to decrease the October 2019 benefit allotment for each SNAP household.

Attached are notices in both English and Spanish along with a document of the seven languages with information on how the notice can be translated. These notices and document must be displayed in all areas of the agency viewable by the general public from the date received through October 31, 2019.

Submit any questions regarding these policy changes and forms to the Operational Support Team (OST) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services Section

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Attachments (17)

Change Notice for Manual

Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients (English, Spanish and seven languages)

FSs285

FSs600

Figure 285-1 (example of Application Worksheet)

DSS-1700/1700sp

DSS-6240/6240sp

DSS-8232/8232sp

DSS-8550/8550sp

DSS-8552/8552sp

DSS-8560/8560sp